(b) whether Government have recently approved re-structuring plan for Central Board of Excise and Customs in pursuance of Government's decision to downsize Ministries and Departments;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating category-wise reduction/ increase in the Board;

(d) the total amount of savings likely to accrue by re-structuring the Board;

(e) whether in addition to administrative savings, re-structuring is expected to result in cost-efficiency and mobilization of more resources; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The category-wise sanctioned strength of Central Board of Excise and Customs excluding the technical cadres of Marine, Telecommunication, Chemical Service etc. and Group "B\ "C & "D" cadres of Narcotics, as on 30th June, 2001, is as under: Group "A' 1759 Group "B' 8786 Group "C 41479 Group "D" 16737

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The category-wise reduction/Increase in staff strength is as under:—

Group "A'	(+)	0700
Group "B'	(+)	5486
Group *"C*	(-)	7785
Group "D"	(-)	2001

(d) to (0 Apart from administrative savings, it is expected to result in improved efficiency and additional mobilization of resources by closer attention to cases pending with judicial and quasi-judicial authorities, speedy collection of arrears of revenue and plugging the leakages of revenue etc.

Research and Development fund for Pharma Industries

1768. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHJDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had announced a fund of Rs. 150 crores for Research and Development Fund per annum basis to Pharma Industries; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the fund disbursement and who are the members of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B ALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Committee (PRDC) constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, director General, CSIR establishment of Pharmaceutical Research & Development Support Fund (PRDSF) to promote research in the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country was announced. Operationalisation of the fund is under consideration of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Determination of Rate of inflation

1769. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM M ANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation rate stood at 5.52% for week ended on 2nd June, 2001 even as prices for primary articles rose by 0.4% per cent;

(b) if so, what is the method used to determine rate of inflation;

(c) what is the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on 2nd June, 2001 and whether it is higher than that in the last year on the same date;

(d) whether Government propose to modify the method to determine rate of inflation in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The annual point to point inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) stood at 5.52% for the week ended June 2, 2001. The index of primary articles increased by 0.4% during this week thus pushing up the inflation rate in the primary articles group to 2.8% on June 2,2001.

(b) The percentage variation in WPI at a particular point of time over the corresponding period of the previous year indicates the annual inflation rate at that point of time. The WPI is calculated on a weekly basis on the principle of a weighted arithmetic average using Laspeyer's formula, which has a fixed